UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

Distr.
RESTRICTED

DP/GC/UPV/R.1/RECOMMENDATION
30 March 1973
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Sixteenth session
6-28 June 1973
Agenda item 3

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMING

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of

THE UPPER VOLTA

Note by the Administrator

Programme period	IPF for the programme period
1972-1976	$10.7 million

I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The programme was prepared by the Ministry of Planning, Industry and Mining, being the governmental agency responsible for co-ordinating UNDP technical assistance, in close and continuing co-operation with the technical ministries concerned (particularly the International Organizations Branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and with the office of the UNDP Resident Representative. The Resident Representative acted as spokesman for the organizations of the United Nations system. The Resident Representative ensured the participation of local staff of those organizations in the preparation of the programme, drawing extensively on the knowledge and experience of his colleagues and taking fully

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into account the initiatives and proposals both of UNDP and of the other organizations. The programme was finalized at a meeting attended by the Minister of Agriculture in his capacity as Acting Minister of Planning, accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Planning, the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa and other UNDP officials, and representatives of most of the other organizations of the United Nations system.

2. As part of the preparation for formulation of the programme, the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa visited the Upper Volta on three occasions: December 1971, July 1972 and November-December 1972. In the course of these visits, he held talks with members of the Government, including the President of the Republic, His Excellency General Sangoule Lamizana, and the Prime Minister, His Excellency Gérard Kango Ouedraogo, and also the Minister of Planning, Industry and Mining and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In addition, UNDP sent an interdisciplinary mission composed of high-level consultants to the Upper Volta in November and December 1972 to examine the major obstacles to the accelerated development of the country and to formulate appropriate recommendations for overcoming them. Since those recommendations were made after the Five-Year Plan for 1972-1976 had been prepared by the Government and approved by the National Assembly, they will not actually be taken into consideration unless financing is assured for all the projects in the Plan. The Government has indicated that it will take account of the recommendations if and when any adjustments are made to the Plan, and in any event when the next Five-Year Plan is drawn up. Nevertheless, to the extent permitted by the resources available under the IPF, the Government has been able to include in the programme a number of projects suggested by the mission. Moreover, the formulation of certain projects provided for in the programme will benefit from the suggestions made by the mission in that regard.

3. Information on bilateral and multilateral aid programmes was available during the preparation of the programme. Consultations between UNDP and the representatives of those programmes and with the Upper Volta Government ensured that there would be no duplication between anticipated UNDP assistance and assistance provided or pledged by other sources of aid.

II. Relation of the country programme to the development plan of the Government

4. The objectives of the Five-Year Plan for 1972-1976, which was formally approved by the National Assembly in 1972, are:

- To expand rural production to the maximum possible extent and as a priority matter;

- To determine the optimum use which the Upper Volta can make of its human resources;

- To ensure that all Upper Volta citizens attain a constantly improving level of culture, education and training;

- To utilize regional complementarities so that all the citizens of a country can enjoy a satisfactory and rising standard of living, having due regard to the Upper Volta's position as a focal point;

- To acquire and strengthen the Upper Volta's rightful place in useful and effective international community organizations;

- Finally, with regard to external assistance, which is vitally important for the attainment of a satisfactory growth rate, to secure long-term programming of investment credits and to ensure that such investment is increasingly adapted to the needs of the Upper Volta.

5. In order to attain the objectives of the Plan, it is intended to invest 63,223 million francs CFA over the period 1972-1976. The Government has continued to give priority to the rural sector, which is to receive 30.2 per cent of the scheduled investments. As far as other sectors are concerned, infrastructure will receive 28.8 per cent of investments, the modern sector 18.5 per cent and the social sector 12 per cent.

6. These investments are, however, contingent upon the availability of the necessary credits from external sources of assistance and the ability to find from the national budget sufficient resources to cover recurrent and counterpart expenditures and the direct financing of a number of projects not funded by donor or lending organizations. It is estimated that approximately 74 per cent of the investments will be financed from public external credits and only 21 per cent from Upper Volta credits (national budget, local loans and national local resources). Internal or external loans account for 25 per cent of the total amount.

7. In order to make it easier to mobilize such external assistance, the Plan is set out as a collection of projects, with an indication of the probable sources of assistance for each project. In this manner, a number of projects have been marked for UNDP and appear in the programme, which, like the Plan, gives the highest priority to rural development (38.3 per cent of the programmed resources). After rural development come natural resources development (23 per cent of the programmed resources), human resources development (21.7 per cent), the industrial sector (15.2 per cent) and infrastructure development (1.8 per cent).

III. Content of the country programme according to sectors and subsectors

8. In the rural development sector, the vast majority of the projects relate to the modernization of agricultural production, particular emphasis being placed on agricultural extension, with a view to ensuring integrated rural development worthy of the name. In this connexion, a project for the strengthening of the

Rural Development Bureau (DDR) within the Ministry of Agriculture will provide support for ongoing activities which it is desired to extend and which are being broadened in scope (Multi-purpose Matourkou Agricultural Centre, agricultural extension work). The lessons drawn from these projects will be applied in a series of new integrated rural development projects based on pilot projects and in the co-operatives and rural credit project. In addition, special attention will be paid to two crops which are important to the national economy (rice and cotton) by means of the rice agronomy and Rice Experiment Centre projects and the cotton phyllody project.

9. In the natural resources sector, more than 70 per cent of the programmed resources have been allocated to mineral exploration projects; most of the remainder being for water development projects, one of which was especially recommended by the UNDP interdisciplinary mission.

10. In the human resources sector, more than 70 per cent of the programmed resources have been allocated to education and the training of professional staff; projects in this sector relate, inter alia, to educational planning, syllabus preparation, assistance to the technical college, women's leadership training (animation féminine), training of nurses, training of office staff and the School of Telecommunications. Other activities relate to basic health, labour administration, promotion of employment and social security.

11. In the industrial sector, emphasis is placed on the promotion of rural enterprises (National Centre for the Training and Retraining of Rural Craftsmen, the organization of small-scale village enterprises, and a survey on consumer preferences in rural areas which should help to determine industry's approach to this category of citizens). These activities absorb almost two-thirds of the resources allocated to this sector. The remaining funds have been allocated to industrial development in general, particularly through the provision of assistance to the Office for the Promotion of Upper Volta Enterprise (OPEV).

12. Finally, there is no new or large-scale project in the infrastructure sector, where the scheduled projects are designed to wind up specific ongoing activities, mainly in the field of development administration, communications and housing.

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Table 1

Sectoral breakdown of on-going and new projects

Sector	On-going projects		New projects		Total	
	Value ($'000)	Per cent	Value ($'000)	Per cent	Value ($'000)	Per cent
Rural development	782.9	20.7	3 303.9	48.0	4 086.8	38.3
Human resources	873.2	23.1	1 448.1	21.1	2 321.3	21.7
Natural resources	1 071.8	28.3	1 380.0	20.0	2 451.8	23.0
Infrastructure	188.1	5.0	0	0	188.1	1.8
Industry	864.7	22.9	754.3	10.9	1 619.0	15.2
Programme total	3 780.7	100	6 886.3	100	10 667.0	100
Unprogrammed reserve covered by the IPF					33.0	
IPF total					10 700.0	

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Table 2

Sectoral breakdown by size of project

Sector	Large-scale projects			Small-scale projects		
	No.	Value ($'000)	Per cent	No.	Value ($'000)	Per cent
Rural development	8	3 874.4	39.9	8	212.4	22.3
Human resources	8	1 891.4	19.5	0	429.9	45.2
Natural resources	4	2 331.2	24.0	3	120.6	12.7
Infrastructure	0	-	0	10	188.1	19.8
Industry	5	1 619.0	16.6	0	-	0
Total programmed	25	9 716.0	100	21	951.0	100

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IV. Utilization of UNDP inputs over the programming period

13. The programme covers the same period as the Plan, namely, 1972-1976. Twelve completely new projects totalling almost $3.5 million will be initiated between 1973 and 1976, and during the same period 27 ongoing projects of a total value of nearly $5 million will be continued or extended. Sixteen of these 27 ongoing projects terminate in 1973. These figures differ slightly from those shown in table 1, where, in accordance with established practice, the new and as yet unapproved phases of ongoing projects are reckoned as new projects.

14. As shown by table 2, large-scale projects account for a very large proportion of the programmed resources (91 per cent).

15. The phasing of expenditures over the programming period (see table 3) reveals a high concentration of outlays in 1973 and 1974, despite the termination of many ongoing projects in 1972 and 1973. This concentration is due to the launching of new projects provided for in the development plan as part of the process of putting the plan into effect. A small unprogrammed reserve (0.3 per cent of the IPF) is provided for in the allocation of funds.

Table 3

Phasing of UNDP inputs over the programming period (1972-1976)

Year	Estimated UNDP inputs ($'000)	Percentage of the planning figure (1972-1976)
1972	2 251.6	21.1
1973	3 075.2	28.8
1974	2 917.0	27.3
1975	1 981.4	18.6
1976	441.8	4.2
Total UNDP inputs in programming period	10 667.0	100

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V. Special development problems and needs of the country

16. One of the major problems confronting the Upper Volta is the prevention of onchocerciasis. This terrible disease, which is prevalent throughout the country's fertile river valleys, prevents development of the land in those areas, although the arable land currently under cultivation is inadequate in view of the local population density. At the regional level, UNDP is financing an onchocerciasis control project executed by WHO, which is expected to devise a plan for an out-and-out attack on this scourge; the plan would be carried out with the co-operation of several sources of bilateral and multilateral assistance (in particular, the World Bank).

17. The Sahelian countries, including the Upper Volta, have recently been hard hit by the drought which has afflict this region for the past three or four years, but whose effects have become particularly serious this year. Unfortunately, the impact of this drought on the economy of the country threatens to affect the implementation of the new development plan.

18. The Government of the Upper Volta has complained on several occasions that the indicative planning figure allocated to its country is inadequate. In view of the fact that a high proportion of the resources required to finance the development plan is expected to come from sources of external assistance, the Upper Volta authorities hope that it will be possible to count on increased assistance from UNDP, particularly in connexion with special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries.

VI. Recommendation of the Administrator

19. In the light of the views expressed above, the Administrator recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the proposed UNDP country programme for the Upper Volta within the limit of its approved indicative planning figure and and for the duration of its programme period; and

(b) Authorize the Administrator to proceed with appraisal and approval action on requests for assistance falling within the outlines of the country programme, and calling for planned expenditures which may be contained within the approved indicative planning figure and the financial resources currently available at any given time.